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TAGS: PFOR, LE, LY, PLO

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF QADDAFI TO LEBANESE JOURNALIST
THE FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY "L ORIENT LE JOUR" PUBLISHED AND
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH LIBYAN LEADER MUAMMAR QADDAFI AUG 24
RESULTING FROM A RECENT TRIP TO TRIPOLI BY A DEL OF REPORTERS
FROM THE NEWSPAPER. THE INTERVIEW CENTERED MAINLY BUT NOT
EXCLUSIVELY ON THE CHRISTIAN AND ESPECIALLY THE MARONITE, ROLE
IN LEBANON. THIS TOPIC AROSE EARLY IN THE CONVERSATION WHEN
TWO MEMBERS OF THE DEL WERE INTRODUCED TO QADDAFI AS MARONITES.
AS THE ARTICLE PUT IT, HE SEIZED THE SUBJECT AND EXPRESSED
HIMSELF AT LENGTH ON IT. HE BECAME QUITE ANIMATED, DROPPING
A SADNESS THAT THE WRITER SAID HE'D NOTICED INITIALLY IN QADDAFI'S
FACE. EXCERPTS: (A) AFTER ASKING "WHAT IS ESSENCE ARE THE
MARONITES?" AND GETTING A HISTORY OF THE MARONITE BRANCH
OF CHRISTIANITY IN RELPY, QADDAFI SAID: " I DRAW FROM YOUR
DESCRIPTION AN INITIAL CONCLUSION: IN LEBANON THERE ARE NOT,
AS THERE ARE IN CYPRUS, TWO ETHNIC GROUPS; THERE IS A SINGLE
PEOPLE HAVING A CHRISTIAN WING AND A MOSLEM WING."
(B) QADDAFI TO THE MARONITE REPORTERS: " THERE IS NOT THERE CANNOT
BE, FOR US A HOLY AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK, NEITHER CHRISTIANS
NOT JEW ARE OUR ENEMIES. WITH OUT GOING INTO DETAILS OF THE LEBANON
EVENTS, ONE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS NO RELIGIOUS CONFLICT
IF THERE WERE CONFESSIONAL CLASHES, IT WAS BECAUSE ISLAM IS
POORLY UNDERSTOOD, EVEN BY MOSLEMS THE MARONITES ARE OUR BROTHERS,
LIKE OTHER ARAB CHRISTIANS.

(C) QADDAFI ON RELIGION IN GENERAL: " I AM A BELIEVER AND AN
ARAB NATIONIST. I BELIEVE, CONTRARY TO THE THEETS OF HISTORICAL
MATERIALISM, THAT RELIGION AND NATIONALISM ARE THE TRUE NOTORS
OF HISTORY. ISLAM IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT BUT I PREACH AN ISLAM
OF PROGRESSIVE CONTENT.

(D) QADDAFI ON THE PALESTINIANS: " I AM MORE PALESTINIAN THAN
THEY ARE. HERE WE SEE AN AGREEMENT AGAINST THE RESISTANCE AND

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